

Testimony in support of SB366, to the Environment Committee, by Elizabeth Beisel

Thank you, Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis, Senator Moore, Representative Arconti, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee, for the opportunity to support a bill that will truly make a difference in the lives of so many families.

I am a board member of a new organization called Connecticut Families Against Chemical Trespass, (ConnFACT) and we will be submitting written testimony separately. I would like to state publically that ConnFACT supports this bill.

Today, as the mother of three children, and a health care provider, I am here to support this bill, which serves to protect our children, and for that matter anyone who utilizes school grounds, and other state facilities from toxic chemicals.

Last summer, my town's high school began the construction of a turf field. Before they started they sprayed the entire stadium with a formulation containing glyphosate (similar to Roundup.) The excuse was that it would make it "easier" to excavate. They also used the contaminated, excavated soil to build up the lacrosse field, and sprayed THAT field as well, before dumping the contaminated soil on top of it. This exposed the surrounding neighborhoods and the Farmington River to toxic chemicals. It contaminated the air, soil, sediment, and water surrounding the high school. But what is most devastating is that the children will be exposed to it, possibly for years to come. What gives children who are 14 -18 years old immunity from toxic chemicals that children up to eighth grade don't have? (The current law prevents toxic chemicals from being sprayed on schools, daycare-grade 8, but not high schools.)

In the town where I reside, children of all ages practice sports and play games on the high school fields. They start in kindergarten, and, in some cases, come from surrounding towns as well.

We have been involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals; and it may take 20-30 years to determine the effects of these chemicals on our bodies. Below is a link to an article that discusses safety testing. It describes how safety testing is flawed, because it only tests the one ingredient. i.e glyphosate, but when that ingredient is mixed with adjuvants, which are classified as "inert" the mixture can be up to 1000 times stronger. (And to my knowledge, that mixture is not tested for safety.) <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/weed-whacking-herbicide-p/>

Other studies concerning glyphosate:

1) Institute of Science in Society, **Glyphosate Toxic & Roundup Worse**

<http://www.i-sis.org.uk/GTARW.php>

2) Environmental & Analytical Toxicology, **Detection of Glyphosate Residues in animals and Humans**

<http://omicsonline.org/open-access/detection-of-glyphosate-residues-in-animals-and-humans-2161-0525.1000210.pdf>

3) **EarthopenSource**, Roundup and birth defects: Is the public being kept in the dark?

<http://earthopenSource.org/earth-open-source-reports/roundup-and-birth-defects-is-the-public-being-kept-in-the-dark/>

Please move this bill forward despite the strong opposition, which for the most part is here to support industry. In my opinion, no amount of economic gain or corporate profit is worth it, if a loved one is diagnosed with a life threatening disease, developed as a result of exposure to toxic chemicals.